

(c) what steps have been taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Due to drought situation and less availability of water in Hirakud reservoir, closure of several canals was inevitable, thus affecting Rabi irrigation and causing drinking water problem in some districts of Orissa.

(c) Water from various sources like Indravati reservoir and Power houses at Burla and Chipilima are being released into Mahanadi to meet drinking water and irrigation water requirements in the affected districts.

Shortage of irrigation water in Gohana, Haryana

675. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers in the village of Gohana sub division of Haryana have been facing an acute shortage of canal water meant for irrigation purposes;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Government of Haryana has informed that since the availability of water in Bhakra Reservoir and Yamuna river being less, the rotation programme has been divided into five groups instead of earlier four groups and all channels falling in the territorial jurisdiction of Gohana area have been receiving their share as per the availability of water during their turns.

Private Sector participation in irrigation

676. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need for encouraging private sector participation in irrigation sector;